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Charles ~~W. M. M.~~

Pay or Cheque of the East.

by

Payed March 24th
1826

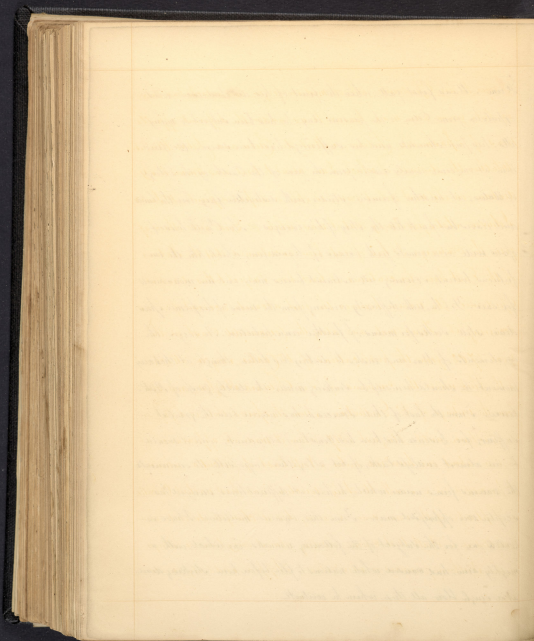
W. L. M. Call

of

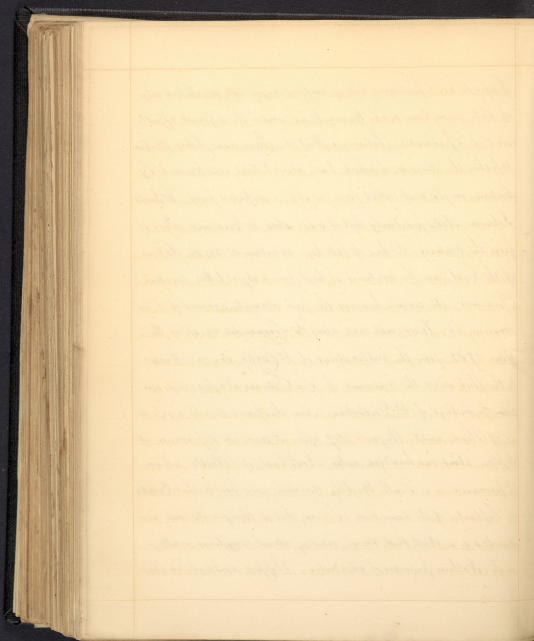
Philadelphia.

Ut scilicet explicato; nec tamen ut Pythius Apollo, certa ut sint
et fixa, qua discas; sed ut hominibus, probabilia Conjectura
sequens.

From Man's first fall, when the fruit of his disobedience was
expulsion from Eden to the present day, he has been subject to many
ills; his punishments and his sufferings have been severe. We find
him at one time nearly swept from the face of the Earth by the Deluge
of Waters; at another famine strikes with destructive fury over the land
and leaves but few to tell the story of his ravages. The Earth herself
opens wide and vomits forth oceans of liquid fire; which like the im-
mense forest, consuming all restraint buries man and his monuments
for ever. Yet he, with difficulty arising from the ruins of his former splen-
dour, still seeks for means of further annihilation. He seizes the
implements of War and wishes to destroy his fellow, though at that very
moment, he should himself be sinking under the deadly grasp of Pestil-
ence. From the last of these sources he has however been the greatest
sufferer; for Disease has been his constant attendant; and it would
be an almost endless task, if not altogether impossible, to enumerate
the various forms under which, he has, at different times, swayed his
scepter over oppressed man. From this immense multitude, I have se-
lected one for the subject of the following remarks; one which, with a
mighty arm, has caused whole nations to flee before him, striking dead
at a single blow, all those whom he overtook.



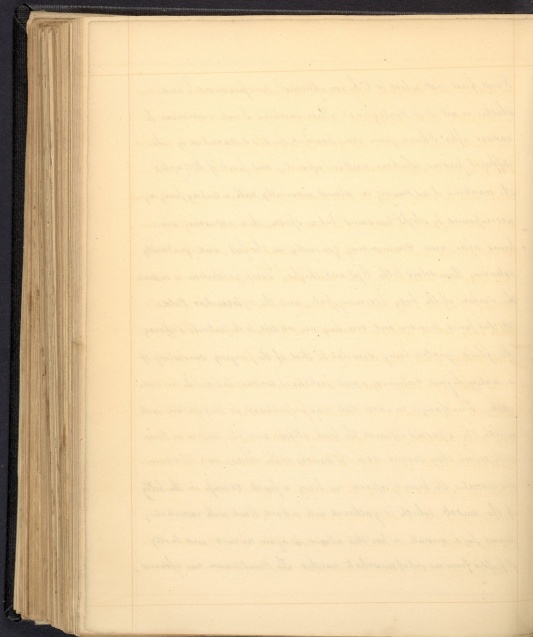
I refer to an Epidemic, not of modern origin, but which has only of late years been made known to us under the different appellations of *Spasmodic Cholera*, *Cholera Asiatica* and *Cholera Morbus*. Whether the disease, of which I am about to treat, was known to Sydenham in its most violent form, is still a disputed point. Dr. James Johnson states positively that it was, while Dr. Good and others affirm the contrary. It has of late been ascertained that the Nations of the East have, for centuries at least, been subject to this dreadful Epidemic. We receive however the first accurate account of it, as occurring at *Tinocmah* and along the *Coromandel Coast* in the year 1782, from the publications of Dr. Curtis, Surgeon attached to the Fleet under the Command of Sir Edward Hughes; and also from the writings of Dr. Girdlestone. From this period there is a gap in its existence until August 1817, when it made its appearance at *Seppur*, about one hundred miles North East of *Calcutta*, whence it proceeded in a South Westwardly direction, and first reached *Calcutta* in September of the same year. Leaving this it changed its route and travelled in a North West course, visiting almost every town or village in the Northern provinces of *Hindustan*. Stopped suddenly in its



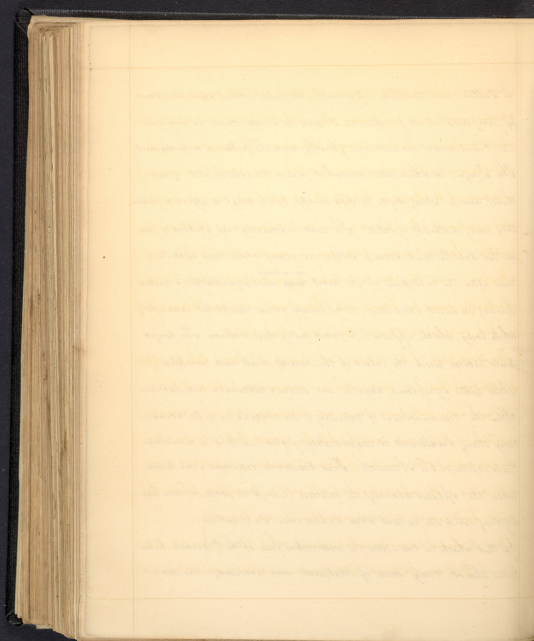
progress Northward, as if impeded by the range of Mountains near the borders of Tibet, it is seen gradually moving towards the South, spreading from one shore to the other. The settlements of Bombay and Goa, situated on the Malabar Coast, felt deeply in their turn its destructive power. The same progressive step did it pursue on the Eastern Coast, depopulating the whole Delta to the uttermost point of the Gangetic. Nor does it stop here, for we see it crossing the strait, which separates the Island of Ceylon from the Continent, and if possible, assuming a shape still more alarming. In the month of November 1819, as if rising from the Ocean, it takes possession of the Isle of France, thus far did it extend Westward. Nor was its progress more limited towards the East. It passed over in its course the Kingdoms of Siam & Malacca, Cochin China, visited Macao, the Portuguese settlement at the mouth of the River Niger, also Paulou, and advanced some distance into the adjacent districts. A second time it leaves the Continent, and our attention is called to witness its ravages throughout the Philippines, its principal force being spent in the neighbourhood of Manila. Such was the course of this Epidemic, during the years 1817, 18, 19, since which time it has again made its appearance in different sections of the East.

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

I will first ask what is Cholera Morbus? how produced? and whether or not it is contagious? These questions I will endeavour to answer after I have given some account of it, as described by the different persons, who have written upon it; and first of Dr. Cullen. He mentions it as coming on almost invariably with a watery purging, accompanied by slight tenderness, but no spasm, then occurring some hours after, and commencing generally in the feet, and gradually extending themselves to the legs and thighs. Great prostration is induced the surface of the body becoming pale, and the extremities cold. At this period nausea and vomiting are added to the patient's suffering; the fluid ejected being similar to that of the purging, consisting of a watery liquid containing small particles of mucus; but no bile is observable. The danger in each case was proportionate to the rapidity, with which the spasms followed the first attack and the degree of force with which they seized upon the muscles of the Throat and Abdomen. He describes the kind of spasm, as being a fixed cramp in the belly of the muscle, which is gathered into a hard knot with excruciating pain. In a minute or two this relaxed, is again renewed, and lastly it passes from one set of muscles to another. The Countenance now appears



as a sallow and deathlike appearance, the pulse becomes small and scarcely perceptible but not quickened. Should the spasm cease for any time the countenance becomes less ghastly, and the pulse is more distinct. The Tongue is white and somewhat furrowed towards the root; great thirst and a strong desire for cold drinks, but no relief is afforded by them, they being instantly rejected. The head is scarcely ever affected by pain, neither does the mind seem to suffer, for many retain their faculties, even after the pulsations of the heart ~~were~~ ^{are no longer} distinguishable. Spasms having endured some time, a clammy sweat breaks out over the whole body, which appears to be forced out by their violence. The finger nails become livid, the palms of the hands white and wrinkled. These latter symptoms, says he, are always followed by dyspnoea. After the commencement of vomiting to the conclusion of the scene, every thing swallowed is immediately rejected, as if by a convulsive contraction of the Stomach. This condition remains some hours, when the spasms abating, the intestinal propulsion becomes now relaxing, and the patient soon recovers from suffocation. In this which he considers the most violent form of the Epidemic, he has tried almost every mode of treatment, and according to his own

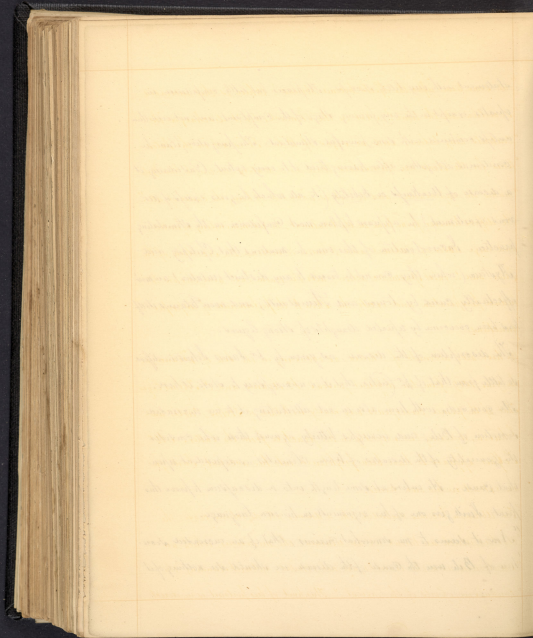


Salmon with very little success. He places but little confidence in opiates except in the very forming stage of the complaint, and not even then unless combined with some powerful stimulant. The purgative plan he condemns altogether, after having tried it to every extent. Considering it a disease of Weakness or Debility (to all which he gives except of nervous excitement) he appears to place most confidence in the stimulating practice. In corroboration of this view, he mentions that Epilepsy and Apathia (when they can not be traced to any distinct irritation) are most effectually cured by tonics and Stimulants; and even Tetanus itself has been overcome by repeated draughts of strong liquors.

The description of the disease, as given by Dr James Johnson, differs so little from that of Dr Curtis, that it is unnecessary to state it here.

He coincides with him also in not attributing it to an increased secretion of Bile; and inveighs bitterly against those who consider the generalities of the diseases of Warm Climates as dependent upon that Cause. He enters at some length into a discussion to prove this point. I will give one of his arguments in his own language.

"Now it seems to me somewhat curious, that if an increased secretion of Bile were the Cause of the disease, we should see nothing of it

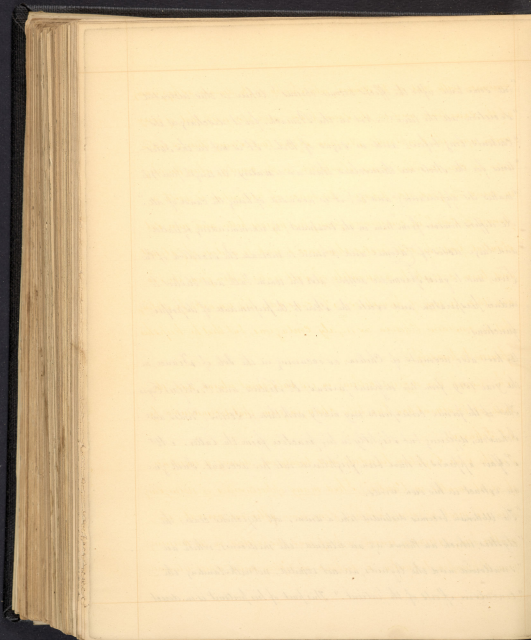


"At some time after the effects become obvious." When is this increased
"secretion all the time? Not in the Stomach, for it discharges its
"contents long before; and no signs of Bile. It is not in the Intes-
"tines for the stools are themselves thin and watery. At length purgative
"makes its appearance; and lo! it is accounted of being the cause of all."

He differs however from him in the treatment; he recommending repeated
and large doses of Calomel and Opium to increase the secretion of the
Liver, and to quiet spasmodic action; also the warm bath and Hister to
induce perspiration and excite the skin to the performance of its proper
functions.

We have also accounts of Cholera, as occurring in the Isle of France, in
the year 1619, from two different persons, Dr. Roussin and C. Telfair Esq.
That of the former corresponds very nearly with that of Doctors Curtis and
Johnson, differing but slightly in his practice from the latter. Mr
Telfair appears to have been frightened into his account. I will give
an extract in his own words.

"The Uterum becomes distended like a drum, all digestions cease, the
"cysters, which are thrown up are retained, the medicines, which are
"swallowed and the liquids, are not vomited, notwithstanding the
"convulsive efforts of the patient." This part of his portrait is in direct

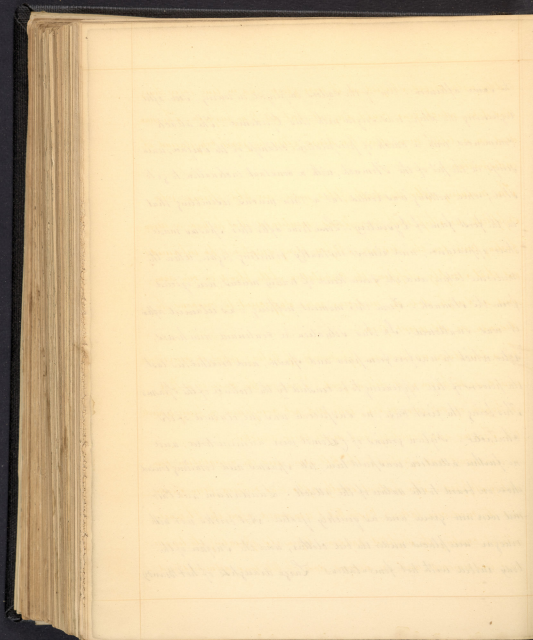


variance with that of Dr. Harris, who speaks of the disease as happening at the same time and in the same place, and also with that of every writer upon the complaint. He then states that seeing there is little hope of cure he flies to his plantation in the country, where keeping in mind the good old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," he commences giving his negroes better and more substantial food; he also treated them once a week to a dose of Calomel, and twice a week to a quantity of salt water taken from the Sea; and thus by way of prevention. He concludes his remarks by stating, that he considers Cholera as highly contagious, but that he keeps his opinion to himself.

The disease has differed nothing in its subsequent return, and the mode of treatment has been little changed from that recommended by Dr. Johnson.

In the year Eighteen hundred and twenty one, during a residence of eight months in Canton, I had many opportunities of witnessing it in its most appalling shape. Some time after our arrival, the weather being extremely warm, a boat was dispatched in the morning from Whampoa to Canton, a distance of fifteen miles, which returned

the same afternoon. One of the sailors employed in rowing, soon after
regaining the ship, was seized with this Epidemic. The attack
commenced with a chill of perspiration, coldness of the surface, uneasiness
in the pit of the Stomach, with a constant inclination to get
stool; when nothing was voided but a thin mucus resembling that
in the first form of Dysentery. Some time after this, spasms made
their appearance, and almost instantly vomiting began, when the
Medicine taken and the same kind of watery mucus, were ejected
from the stomach. From this moment, nothing was retained after
it was swallowed. In this situation he continued nine hours,
after which he was free from pain and spasm, and breathed his last,
the powers of life appearing to be crushed by the violence of the Spasms.
This being the first case, no suspicion was entertained of its
character. Fifteen grains of Calomel were administered, and
no further attention was paid him, till spasms and vomiting would
show on board to the nature of the attack. Laudanum and Calo-
mel were now given and as quickly ejected. Hot bricks wet with
vinegar were placed under the bed clothes, and the surface of the
body rubbed with hot fomentations. Large draughts of hot Brandy

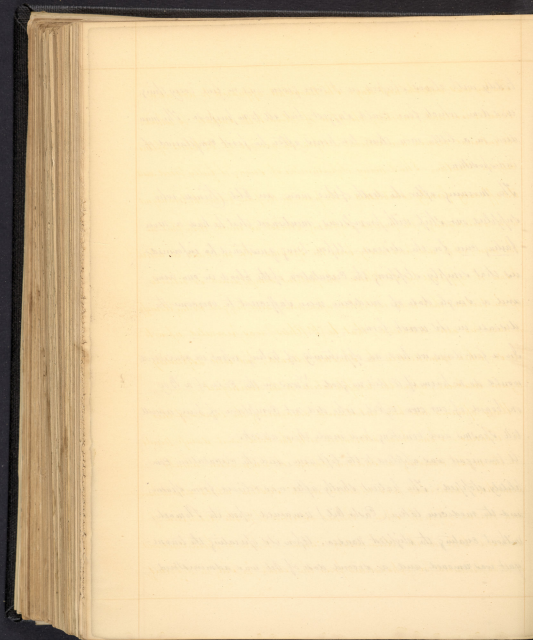


brandy with cloves steeped in it were given and in fine every thing was done, which fear could suggest; but all to no purpose. The man died in a little more than ten hours after he first complained of indisposition.

The morning after the death of this man, an old Frenchman, who supplied our ship with provisions, mentioned that he had a very failing cure for the disease. Upon being questioned he informed us that simply stopping the circulation of the blood in our arm, and a single dose of medicine were sufficient to overcome the disease in its worst form.

In a few days we had an opportunity of testing, what, we considered would do no harm if it did no good. It was in the case of a Boy on board of our own vessel, who did not complain of being unwell till spasms and vomiting had made their attacks.

A tourniquet was applied to the left arm, and the circulation completely stopped. The patient shortly after was relieved from spasm, and the medicine taken (Castor Oil) remained upon the Stomach, without creating the slightest Nausea. Upon its operating the tourniquet was removed, and a second dose of Oil was administered.



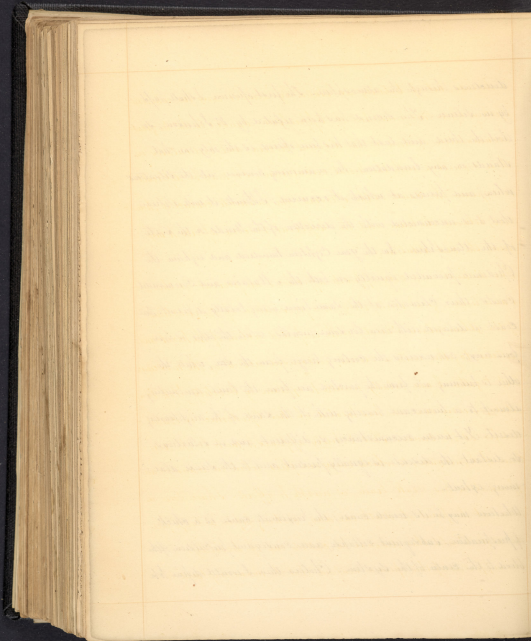
The boy was well the next day. The tourniquet appeared to act as a Counter-irritant, inviting the flow of blood to the surface, by which the internal visceræ were relieved. Upon the arrival of Dr Rhoads of this city in Canton, I had many opportunities of seeing it fully tried, and its efficacy firmly established. The pain in the part below the tourniquet was excruciating; the patient suffering almost as much from that in the arm, as he did previously from the spasms. In one case in which I saw it applied by Dr Rhoads, the patient complained so bitterly of the torture that was inflicted upon him, and begged so imploringly to have his arm released, that he (Dr Rhoads) was prevailed upon to do so; when immediately the spasms returned; but were speedily again overcome, upon the reapplication of the tourniquet.

Many opinions have been entertained concerning the causes of this Epidemic. Some have attributed it to the cold and damp winds of the night, causing a sudden check of perspiration, whereby something deleterious was retained in the system, which should have been thrown off by the skin. Others ascribed it to the detention of diseased Bile in the Alimentary Canal. While a third conceived it to be produced by exhalations from the earth rising in sleeping,

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general
consideration of the subject, and to a statement of the
principles which should govern the conduct of the
author. It is then divided into three parts, the first of
which is devoted to a consideration of the
principles of the art, the second to a
consideration of the practice, and the third to a
consideration of the theory. The first part is
devoted to a consideration of the principles of the
art, and is divided into three sections, the first of
which is devoted to a consideration of the
principles of the art, the second to a
consideration of the practice, and the third to a
consideration of the theory. The second part is
devoted to a consideration of the practice, and is
divided into three sections, the first of which is
devoted to a consideration of the principles of the
art, the second to a consideration of the practice,
and the third to a consideration of the theory. The
third part is devoted to a consideration of the
theory, and is divided into three sections, the first
of which is devoted to a consideration of the
principles of the art, the second to a consideration
of the practice, and the third to a consideration
of the theory.

direction through the atmosphere. The first opinion I shall pass by in silence. The second has been refuted by B. Schwenk; so that the third and last that has been offered is the only one that stands on any foundation. In examining however into the situations when, and periods at which it occurred; I think it well appears that it is unconnected with the direction of the winds or the state of the atmosphere. In the year Eighteen hundred and eighteen the Epidemic prevailed equally on both the Malabar and Bombardel Coasts; their climates at the same time being totally different. One coast is deluged with rain for some months, while the other is free from any; one receives the cooling breeze from the sea, while the other is burning up from the parched air from the land, amounting almost to a hurricane bearing with it the sand of the neighbouring desert. Yet under circumstances so different, and in situations so distant, the disease is equally present and to the same alarming extent.

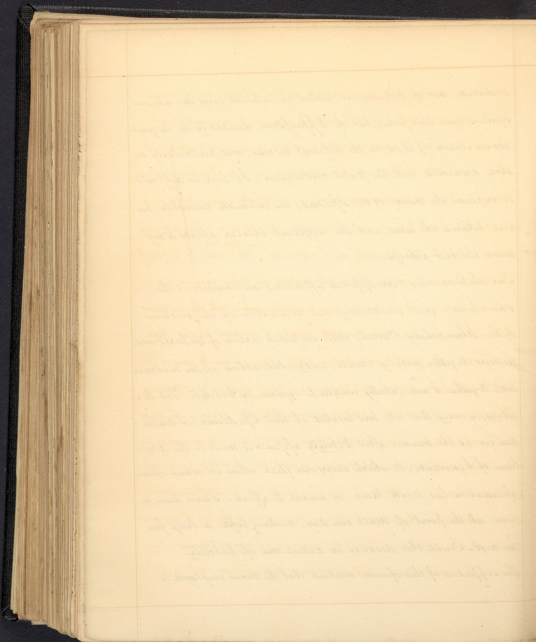
Whatever may be its remote cause; the proximate cause is a shock of perspiration, subsequent collapse, and consequent profusion of the blood to the centre of the system. Cholera then I would define to be



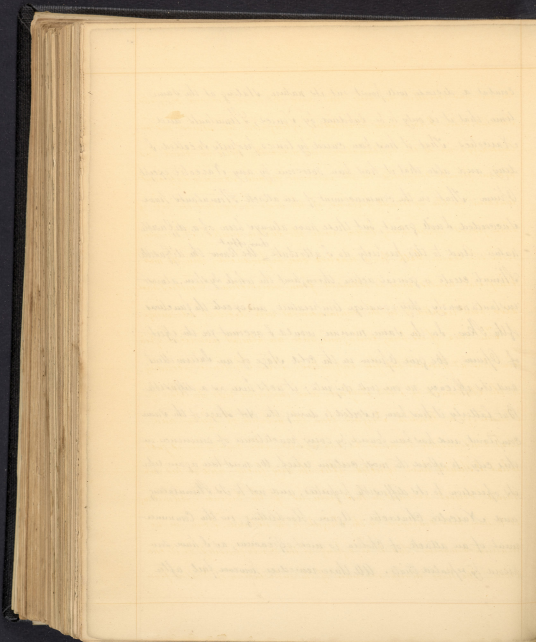
a disease, not of debility as stated by almost every one who has spoken upon this point, but of Oppression, caused by the too great accumulation of blood in the different viscera, and particularly in those connected with the portal circulation. It may be difficult to explain the cause of the spasms; the intimate connection, however, between the brain and the different viscera affords to my mind the best solution.

Two distinct and very opposite affections are present at the same time; great irritability and prostration of the functions of the Alimentary Canal, with impeded action of the heart and arteries, together with a violent increased action of the muscles: both together I am totally unable to explain by debility. Yet debility, by every one who has treated of this Epidemic, is continued for as the cause. This debility appears to me to be the argument of Ignorance, to which every one flies, when in want of an explanation his weak brain is unable to afford. I have seen a man, at the point of death one day, cooking before a large fire the next. Could this disease be called one of debility.

The supporters of this opinion contend that the means employed to



cannot a disease well point out its nature, stating at the same time, that it is only to be subdued by Venies, Stimulants and Narcotics. That it has been cured by tonics, properly selected, & dry, and also that it has been overcome by any Narcotic, except Opium. That, in the commencement of an attack Stimulants have succeeded with grant, but these have always been of a diffusible nature. And to this property do I attribute ^{their effect} we know the diffusible Stimuli excite a general action, throughout the whole system, almost instantaneously; they equalize temperature, and excite the functions of the Kid. In the same manner, would I account for the effect of Opium. We give Opium in the cold stage of an Intermittent, and its efficacy no one will dispute; it acts here as a diffusible. But latterly it has been resorted to during the Hot Stage of the same complaint, and has been found, by every practitioner of eminence in this city, to afford the most certain relief. We must here again refer its operation to its diffusible properties, and not to its Stimulating and Narcotic Character. Again, Bloodletting, in the commencement of an attack of Cholera is most efficacious, as I have seen proved by repeated trials. All these remedies, however, fail, after

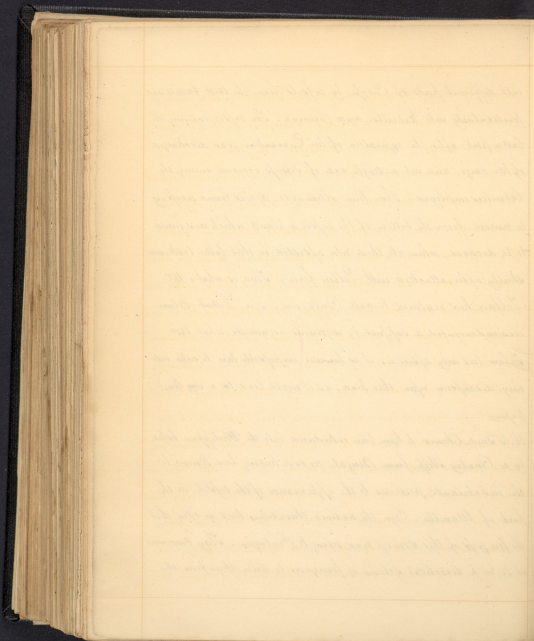


the evil had prevailed for any time, and the blood becomes congested. In this state I have seen bloodletting extinguish life almost instantaneously; nor is the explanation very difficult. After the blood has become firmly congested in the internal organs, scarcely sufficient remains in the external portions of the body to support the life of those parts, which being taken away the system sinks. However, from the warm bath &c. a reaction can be produced, than the most beneficial results may be obtained from venesection. Emetics have also been resorted to in the commencement with decided advantage.

The idea of its being contagious, once an almost universal opinion, has at present but few supporters. This Epidemic, according to the statement of Mr. Telfair, was imported into the Isle of France, by a British Frigate, from the Island of Ceylon; and that consequently it must be contagious. His conclusion is just what I should have expected, after the very lucid, and in his own mind, correct account he has given us of the Disease. Admitting it to have been conveyed by the Frigate to the Island, I can in no manner conceive this to be a proof of the contagiousness of its character. We have many accounts of the introduction of Yellow fever

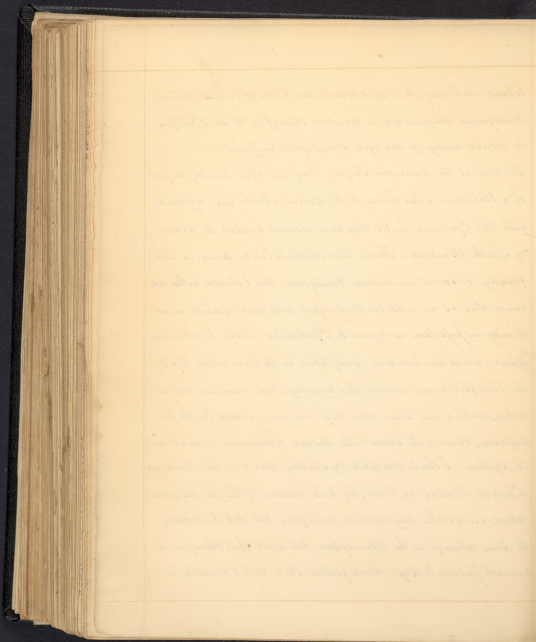
into different parts of Europe, by vessels from the West Indies, and particularly into Gibraltar and Corunna. The vessel entering the latter port, after the expiration of her Quarantine, was discharged of her cargo, and not a single case of sickness occurred among the labourers employed. Some time afterwards, it was found necessary to remove, from the bottom of the vessel a plank, which was found to be decayed, when all those who assisted in this latter task, were shortly after attacked with Yellow fever. This is what Mr. Telfair has ventured to call Contagion. In Gilbert Blane has endeavoured to support by ingenious arguments what Mr. Telfair had only asserted; it is however impossible here to enter into any discussion upon this head, as it would lead to a very long paper.

It is said likewise to have been introduced into the Philippine Isles, by a Country Ship, from Bengal; no case having been known to the inhabitants, previous to the appearance of the vessel in the port of Manilla. Even the natives themselves had no idea that the progress of this scourge was owing to Contagion. They conceived it to be a diabolical scheme of foreigners to drive them from the



Islands, believing the waters to have been poisoned by them, and in consequence commenced a dreadful slaughter of all Strangers, in which many of our own Countrymen suffered.

The crew of the American Frigate Congress, after leaving the port of Manila, on his return to the United States, were afflicted with this Epidemic, until they had almost reached the coast of South America. From this circumstance, many in this country, believed the disease contagious; but I should rather advance this as an additional support to the facts, of which we are already in possession in regard to Epidemics. I refer to a circum-stance, which has been well exemplified in the fever which has for the last few years overrun this country, that many are not attacked, until a long time after they have been exposed to the pre-disposing cause; the seeds of the disease remaining dormant in the system. I shall conclude by stating, that I do not consider Cholera Morbus as belonging to the number of the few disorders which are at this day deemed contagious, but that it is owing to some change in the Atmosphere, but what that change is, I will not pretend to say. I will further state, that I consider no



disease as contagione, upon which our Omnipotent and most
merciful Creator has not set an outward mark as visi-
ble as that imprinted upon the forehead of Cain—

There is a small note at the bottom of the page which says
"The above is a copy of the original manuscript of the
first edition of the book." This is a very interesting
note as it tells us that the book is a copy of the
original manuscript of the first edition of the book.

Philadelphia, Pa. Sept. 1st 1852

Dear Mr. May

I have the honor

to acknowledge the receipt

of your letter of the 27th inst.
Philadelphia, Pa. Sept. 1st 1852

